## CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for forming fibres or flakes of material comprising means (1) for producing a heated stream of molten material (9), means (3) for feeding the stream in a substantially vertically downward direction, means (7) for receiving the downwardly directed stream and for forming fibres or flakes therefrom, and means (11,13,15,17) for effecting a change in the temperature of the stream subsequent to the production thereof whereby fibres or flakes of a desired thickness are obtained.

2. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature changing means are arranged to effect a change of temperature in the stream while it is travelling in a vertically downward direction.

3. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature changing means may be arranged to effect a change of temperature in the stream prior to it travelling in a vertically downward direction.

4. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the apparatus includes means for applying a high frequency (RF) current to the vertically downward travelling stream.

5. Apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein means are provided for applying an electric current to the vertically downward travelling stream.

6. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the apparatus is alternatively or additionally provided with means for cooling the stream prior to it being fed in a downward direction.

7. Apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the cooling means includes a conduit (3) through which the stream is fed, said conduit being surrounded by a cooling coil or jacket (23) through which an appropriate fluid may be fed.

8. Apparatus according to any of the preceding claims wherein the apparatus is provided with mass or volume flow control means in addition or in substitution of the temperature changing means.

9. A method for forming fibres or flakes of material comprising producing a heated stream of molten material, feeding the stream in a substantially vertically downward direction, receiving the downwardly directed stream and forming fibres or flakes therefrom, and effecting a change in the temperature of the stream subsequent to the production thereof whereby fibres or flakes of a desired thickness are obtained.

10. A method according to Claim 9, wherein, in addition to effecting a change in the temperature of the stream, or in substitution therefor, a change is effected in the mass or volume flow of the stream.